

# CONSERVATION COUNTS

## JEFFERSON COUNTY LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT



FALL 2011

Volume 15, Issue 1

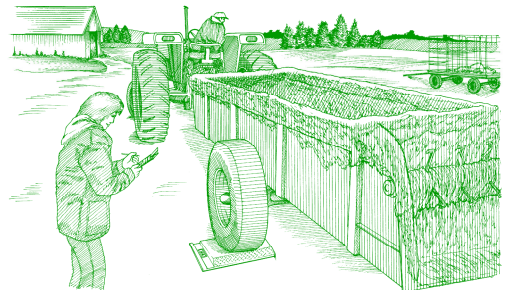
### Farmer Training – Writing Your Own Nutrient Management Plan

State law authorizes farmers who complete an approved training class to write their own nutrient management plan. Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department along with UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection have teamed up to offer classes to producers. Classes will be available for both livestock producers and non-livestock producers.

To be able to write your own plan, you must meet the following criteria:

- ☐ You must be in control of the land. You must be the one who makes planting and fertilizer decisions.
- ☐ You must have current soil tests less than 4 years old and they must be taken at the required rate of one sample per five acres from an approved lab.
- ☐ You must be skilled at using a computer. Those with only basic skills have had difficulty with the Snap Plus software used to develop the plan.

Those meeting the above conditions can contact Nancy Lannert, Jefferson County Resource Conservationist at 920-674-7115 to sign up for classes. Two classes are being planned for December however the times and dates have not yet been finalized. More classes will be added if needed. The course will consist of at least three days of training. You must attend all days to receive your certification. Certification must be updated every four years to remain eligible to write your own plan.



### You and Your Tax Credit

The Farmland Preservation Program under the Working Lands Initiative has undergone many changes to the tax credit program. Most notably is the amount of your tax credit. Farmland Preservation has changed from an income/property tax basis and is now a straight \$7.50 per acre for most Jefferson County Farmland Preservation participants. A few landowners who are located within the Scuppernon Agricultural Enterprise Area (a defined area west and northwest of Palmyra) can qualify for \$10/acre if they sign a 15-year agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Additionally, as Jefferson County has exclusive agricultural use zoning, all landowners in the county should be using Wisconsin Department of Revenue tax schedule FC-A to claim the credit. If you are not, you are using the wrong form and may be subject to audit.

For more detailed information on claiming the Farmland Preservation tax credit, contact your tax professional or the Department of Revenue at 608-266-2442 and ask for Publication 503. This publication can also be viewed on-line at <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/pubs/pb503.pdf>.

## Sample for Soil Testing This Fall

Participants in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program are reminded that nutrient management plans are required to be in place by September 30, 2012 for continued eligibility in the tax credit program. A copy of your signed nutrient management checklist needs to be submitted to the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department by this date.

Soil testing is a way of predicting the fertilizer and liming needs of your crops and can increase profitability by reducing over-application of nutrients when not necessary or by improving yields through applying nutrients when the soil is lacking. A nutrient management plan pulls all the necessary information together in order for a producer to make better management decisions. It also identifies environmentally sensitive areas for manure spreading.

Before a nutrient management plan can be developed, soil testing must be done. Sampling is best done in the fall of the year, after crop removal. One sample is needed per five acres and must be submitted to a Wisconsin Department of Agriculture-approved testing laboratory for analysis.

Each sample needs to be collected from at least 10 cores pulled from a five acre area. Using a soil probe gives the most accurate results. Mix the cores in a bucket and place about 2 cups in a bag. Label the bag carefully with your name and field identification. It may be helpful to have an aerial photo to mark where you took the sample. UW- Extension has soil probes for loan and can provide sampling bags for UW testing labs. Co-ops may have soil probes to lend and most offer soil sampling services to their clients who do not wish to take their own samples. UW-Extension publication *A2100 Sampling Soils for Testing* provides more detailed information on collecting soil samples.

Once you receive your soil test results, the information is used to write your nutrient management plan. Farmers who are skilled at using a computer can attend classes to learn to write their own plan or the information can be given to your crop consultant who can write the plan for you. Contact your crop advisor for prices on this service.

Remember, your nutrient management plan is due Fall of 2012. Start planning now and improve your profitability and keep your tax credit in place. Soil testing questions can be answered by the Land and Water Conservation Department (920-674-7110) or by the UW-Extension (920-674-7197).

## EQIP & WHIP Signup

The Jefferson County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is asking landowners interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) to sign-up for these program by November 1. Actual program deadlines are in the winter, but to accurately access resource concerns such as erosion and barnyard runoff, any necessary field investigations are better done prior to snow cover. Following the November 1 suggested deadline will lead to the best application possible for contract acceptance.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land such as waste storage, nutrient management, and integrated pest management. WHIP is a voluntary program that offers technical and financial assistance to help protect, restore, develop and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Please contact the NRCS office at 920-674-2020 to inquire about the EQIP and WHIP program.

#### Land and Water Conservation Committee

Mike Burow, Chair  
Gregory Torres, Vice Chair  
Walt Christensen, Secretary  
Scott Zimmerman, FSA  
Representative  
Carlton Zentner

#### Land and Water Conservation Department

Mark Watkins  
County Conservationist  
Patricia Cicero  
Water Resource  
Management Specialist  
Nancy Lannert  
Resource Conservationist  
Joe Strupp  
Resource Conservationist  
Gerry Kokkonen  
GIS & Land Use Specialist  
Beth Klotz  
Administrative Clerk

320 South Main Street  
Jefferson, WI 53549  
920-674-7110  
fax: 920-674-7114  
[www.jeffersoncountywi.gov](http://www.jeffersoncountywi.gov)

## Reporting Hazardous Substances on Your Farm

The Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee is in the process of updating the Jefferson County-Wide Farm Plan. This document is for all farms in Jefferson County and covers certain chemicals that they store, use, or have others apply. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) states that farms have reporting and planning responsibilities if they store, use, or have others apply certain agricultural products on their premises. The farm information contained in the plan includes: name of the owner, name and location of the extremely hazardous substance, and two individual's contact information for emergency responders.

Responding to an emergency that involves an extremely hazardous chemical can be very dangerous. Knowledge of the types and locations of these agricultural chemicals is critical to emergency first responders who may need to respond to local farms in the event of an accidental release or fire.

Federal and State laws regarding EPCRA require the following for each nonadjacent or noncontiguous farm that you own:

**Emergency Planning:** If you store, use, or have others apply any agricultural products containing EPA listed extremely hazardous substances in excess of the established threshold planning quantity, you must work with your Local Emergency Planning Committee to develop an emergency response plan. There are no allowances for seasonal inventory and no exceptions. Chemicals are considered stored if they are present on the farm, at a minimum, overnight. Chemicals brought to the

farm and immediately applied (used) during the same day are not included. For a full listing of extremely hazardous substances, please go to EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/pubs/title3.pdf> or contact the Jefferson County Emergency Management Office at 920-674-7450.

**Accidental Releases:** If you have an accidental release of any agricultural products containing EPA listed extremely hazardous substances, you must immediately notify the local fire department, the State of Wisconsin 24-hour duty officer at 1-800-943-0003, and the Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee at 920-674-7450.

As you can imagine, the plan is difficult to maintain. In an effort to update our plan, we need your help. If you are a farm owner within Jefferson County that has extremely hazardous chemicals as described above, please contact our office with the following information: name, farm name, address (including city, zip, phone number, email address). You can email the information to Kim at [embuchholz@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:embuchholz@jeffersoncountywi.gov) or leave a voicemail at 920-674-8674.

## Drainage - Requirements for Wetland Determinations

Do you plan to tile, ditch, or fill areas of your farm? Before the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can approve your drainage plans, they need to complete a wetland determination for the area. A two month prior notice may be necessary in some cases. These wetland determinations must be done before frozen and snow covered conditions. Otherwise, the determination will have to wait until the Spring of 2012. Please contact NRCS (920-674-2020) to start the process on obtaining permission for your drainage plans.

## Rural Landowners Workshop

Whether you've just purchased a few acres in the country or have been living on your farmette for the last 10 years, the Rural Landowners Workshop is designed to explore some of the challenges and opportunities of country living. The workshop will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the UW-Extension building located at 864 Collins Road in Jefferson. The following is the agenda:

8:30 a.m. Registration and Refreshments

9:00 a.m. Keynote address

10:10 a.m. Workshops A

**Equine:** Buying Hay for Horses

**Small Farm:** Starting a Small Farm Business

**Land Management:** Managing your woodlot

11:20 a.m. Workshops B

**Equine:** Horse Nutrition

**Small Farm:** USDA Funding opportunities

**Land Management:** Pasture Management

Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. Workshops C

**Equine:** Composting Horse Manure

**Small Farm:** Raising Chickens

**Land Management:** What's Bugging Me? Invasive Pests

### Workshop Sponsors

USDA Farm Service Agency

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Jefferson County UW-Extension

Jefferson County Land and Water  
Conservation Department

### Workshop Registration

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

To help plan for space, please indicate which workshops you would like to attend:

	Equine	Small Farm	Land Management
Workshop A			
Workshop B			
Workshop C			

Registration: Before October 1, 2011 = \$20 per person    After October 1, 2011, \$25 per person  
Registration includes handouts, lunch and refreshments

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to UWEX Jefferson County  
Mail check to UWEX Jefferson County, 864 Collins Road, Jefferson, WI 53549

For more information, please contact UWEX at 920-674-7295.



## 2011/2012 Tree and Shrub Sale Order Form



The Jefferson County Tree and Shrub Sale is in full swing. There are a limited number of trees and shrubs available. Trees will be reserved with paid and completed order forms on the day they are received.

Place your order early!

Minimum order of any one species is 25 trees. All orders must be in multiples of 25. We are required to collect 5.5% sales tax on all trees sold. If you are tax exempt, please include your signed tax exemption form with your order.

**Tree pick up will be in mid April at the Jefferson County Fair Grounds.**

Post cards will be sent out notifying you of pick up times in early April.

For more detailed description of trees or shrubs, visit our website or email [bethk@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:bethk@jeffersoncountywi.gov).

**Red Oak** (Seedling, 12"-18") Long lived oak, provides food and shelter for wildlife, prefers well-drained loamy soil. Grows to 90 ft.

**Hazelnut** (Seedling, 6"-12") Small shrub often in clumps reaching 12 ft in height. Edible brown nuts. Best in moist well-drained soils, full sun to deep shade. Attracts wildlife.

**White Birch** (2 year seedling, 24"-30") Moderate to fast growth with a mature height up to 70 ft. Bark doesn't peel as readily as Native White Birch. Birch-borer resistant. Moist, well drained soil, full sun.

**Serviceberry-Allegheny** (Seedling, 12"-18") Small upright multi-stemmed tree. Grows to 25 ft. Widely adaptable, full sun to partial shade. White flowers yield purplish-blue fruit, orange-red fall foliage.

**White Pine** (2-2, 7"-15") Native to Wisconsin, vigorous growing tree with soft bluish green needles. Prefers sandy loam soils. Grows 60-100 ft.

**Colorado Blue Spruce** (2-2, 12"-16") Slow growing, densely formed tree with stiff silvery-blue needles. Good ornamental. Thrives in dry, well-drained soil, full sun. Grows over 35 ft.

**Norway Spruce** (2-2, 7"-15") Fastest growing spruce. Dark green needles and draping branches. Grows in most soil conditions and full sun. Grows to 70 ft.

**White Spruce** (2-2, 7"-15") Moderate fast growing tree with bluish-green needles. Short stiff branches. Prefers moist loamy soils. Grows to 80 ft.

**Fraser Fir** (2-3, 12"-16") Excellent as Christmas tree, likes cool moist, well-drained soil. Grows 40 to 60 ft.

Tree Type	# of Bundles	Price (# of bundles x \$25)
	<b>Subtotal</b>	
	5.5% Tax	
	<b>Total</b>	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to Jefferson County LWCD  
 Mail to Jefferson County LWCD  
 320 South Main Street  
 Jefferson WI 53549  
 Questions? 920-674-8796

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In 2009, Jefferson County ranked 5th in soybean production (2,350,000 bushels) among all Wisconsin counties. Farmers harvested 53,300 acres of soybeans, with an average yield of 44 bushels per acre.

Source: 2010 Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics

### LWCD Web Watch

Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board's Dairy Doing More website:  
[www.dairydoingmore.org](http://www.dairydoingmore.org)

USDA's Agriculture in the Classroom website:  
[www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org)

World Dairy Expo (October 4-8 in Madison) website:  
[www.world-dairy-expo.com](http://www.world-dairy-expo.com)

### LWCD Staff E-Mail Addresses

Mark Watkins-County Conservationist	<a href="mailto:markw@jeffersoncountywi.gov">markw@jeffersoncountywi.gov</a>
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### E-Mail Address for LWCD Office

[lwcd@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:lwcd@jeffersoncountywi.gov)

### LWCD Web Site

<http://www.jeffersoncountywi.gov> — click on Land & Water Conservation on right hand side of County home page.

Land and Water Conservation Department  
 320 S. Main St., Room 113  
 Jefferson, WI 53549

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**Jefferson, WI**

WORKING TOGETHER TO  
 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

